

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 00129 241322Z
ACTION EUR-08

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PINT, IT
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION SEEN BY DC CONSERVATIVE.

SUMMARY: GINO COLOMBO, CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER IN LOMBARDY, SAYS CENTER OF POLITICAL GRAVITY IN LOMBARDY HAS SHIFTED FROM LEFT TO CENTER DENYING CLAIMS THAT LEFT WING HAS REASSERTED ITS CONTROL IN SELECTION OF REGIONAL SECRETARY, GIUSEPPE GUZZETTI, HE STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF THE UPCOMING EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS (1978) AND FAVORS MORE RAPID STEPS TOWARD UNITY WHICH HE HOPES US WILL ACTUALLY ENCOURAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTRARY TO MILAN PRESS, COLOMBO MAINTAINS THAT AT IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL AND LESS IMPORTANT CITY LEVEL, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY ORGANIZATION IS NOW IN HANDS OF CENTER. LEFT WING GROUPS HAVE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN DECISIVE IN ELECTION NEW REGIONAL SECRETARY GIUSEPPE GUZZETTI. COLOMBO DISAGREED AND ARGUED THAT REAL WINNER WAS ANTI-COMMUNIST LEFT LEADER, MAZZOTTA, ELECTED PROVINCIAL SECRETARY ON 19 DECEMBER. (SEE MILAN'S 2730 & 2646.) WHILE GUZZETTI IS BASE LEADER, HE WAS ELECTED WITH VERY SLIPPERY MAJORITY IN WHICH MAZZOTTA ALLIANCE HAD MAJOR ROLE. (SEE MILAN'S 2730.) MOREOVER, CITY SECRETARY FOR MILAN WAS ABOUT
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TO BE CHOSEN AND WOULD BE FROM COMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE, HARDLY SYMPATHETIC TO DC LEFT. (SEE MILAN'S 0128) MOREOVER, ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF ALL THIS, IN COLOMBO'S VIEW, WAS THAT AT ALL THREE LEVELS, DC NOW COMMITTED IN SUBSTANTIVE TERMS TO POSITION OF MAZZOTTA CENTER. THAT IS: ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT IS EXTREME COMPROMISE WITH COMMUNISTS NATIONALLY AND GOLFARI OPEN GIUNTA IN LOMBARDY IS EXTREME CONCESSION AT REGIONAL LEVEL. THIS, ACCORDING

TO COLOMBO, IS MAJOR CHANGE FROM POSITION TAKEN BY BASE FACTION JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO. IT IS ON THIS ISSUED, SAID COLOMBO, THAT WHOLE POLITICAL DEBATE CENTERS. CONSEQUENTLY, ALTHOUGH BASE FACTION CLAIMS IT HAS REESTABLISHED ITS MAJORITY, MARCORA, BASSETTI AND GRANELLI HAVE HAD TO MOVE TOWARD THE CENTER IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MAJORITY.

2. COLOMBO SPOKE A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE OF MAZZOTTA. HE WAS EXTRAORDINARILY COURAGEOUS TO HAVE RISKED BREAK WITH MARCORA, A POWERFUL BOSS WITH GREAT RESOURCES AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WHO USES THEM RUTHLESSLY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. NOW MAZZOTTA'S HOPE AND TACTIC IS TO SPLIT BASE FACTION WIDE OPEN IN MONTHS TO COME. THAT ESSENTIAL IF CENTER TO RECAPTURE CONTROL OF PARTY ORGANIZATION IN OTHER PROVINCES OF LOMBARDY, ALL NOW CONTROLLED BY MARCORA AND HIS SUPPORTERS. BUT HAVING BOTH CITY AND PROVINCE IN CENTER HANDS IS GREAT LEG UP, ACCORDING COLOMBO.

3. LOOKING AT NATIONAL PICTURE, COLOMBO STRESSED IMPORTANCE EQ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTION IN 1978. HE DESCRIBED IT AS MAJOR NEW PPOLITICAL FEATURE ON HORIZON. NEW ELECTORAL LAW WILL BE NEEDED AND BECAUSE ITALY WILL HAVE ONLY ABOUT EIGHTY SEATS IN NEW PARLIAMENT, ALMOST ANY WAY THAT THAT MIGHT BE DONE, COLOMBO BELIEVES THAT IT WILL FORCE SOCIALISTS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, REPUB- LICANS AND LIBERALS TO FIELD SINGLE LIST OF CANDIDATES. OTHERWISE, SOCIALISTS WOULD ELECT ONLY A FEW MEMBERS WHILE MINOR LAY PARTIES MIGHT END UP AT BEST WITH NO MORE THAN ONE OR TWO MEMBERS

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THIS PROSPECT COULD LEAD SOCIALISTS AND OTHERS TO CREATE ELECTORAL CARTEL THAT COULD BE FIRST STEP TOWARD SINGLE LAY PARTY.

4. COLOMBO SAID THAT DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS SECRET CONFINDUSTRIA REPORT HAD LEAKED WHICH SUPPORTED STRENGTHENING OLAY PARTIES. ACCORDING TO COLOMBO, THAT WOULD SUIT BOTH AGNELLI AND CARLI VERY WELL. HE CLAIMS BOTH FAVOR SOMETHING OF THIS NATURE AND SINCE AGNELLI HAS ALREADY COMMITTED HIMSELF RUN FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHING TO WHICH HE'S GIVEN SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT. IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL, ACCORDING TO COLOMBO, THAT EUROPEAN ELECTIONS GO FORWARD AND THAT FURTHER SIGNIFICANT STEPS SOON BE TAKEN TOWARD EUROPEAN UNIFICATION. HE HOPED NEW JENKINS COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS WOULD HAVE SUPPORT OF GREAT BRITAIN FOR MORE PROGRESS THAN HAD BEEN CASE IN PAST AND URGED UNITED STATES TAKE AN ACTIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ROLE FOR A REVIVAL OF MOVEMENT TOWARD EUROPEAN UNIFICATION. IN HIS VIEW, IT CONSTITUTED ONLY LONG-TERM SOLUTION FOR ITALY'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.FINA

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TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PINT, IT, (COLOMBO, GINO)
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